UMASS LOWELL

ConnectoR

Eighty Years of Student Life

March 5, 2002

Students Follow United Nations Model

by Melissa Williams
Connector Contributor

UMass Lowell's International Relations Club recently participated in the North American Model United Nations conference at the University of Toronto. This was the first of two conferences the club participates in each year.

Members of the club were assigned countries and discussed various political issues pertaining to the country. The countries assigned to the students were France, Pakistan, and Iran. Students were separated into different delegations such as security, economic and financial, world health, and special political and decolonization.

Students who participated in the debates discussed issues such as terrorism, conflict diamonds, and the AIDS epidemic.

The IRC spent a great deal of time preparing for this event and all their hard work paid off when the awards were handed out.

The delegation that represented France won the best delegation out of all the countries that were represented in Toronto. Other students in the club also took home awards. Vicky Gantz and Michael Amendola placed third and fourth in the economic and financial committee. Lisa Chandonnet won second place in the special political decolonization committee. Don Leonard also won an award, placing second in the Security Council Committee.

Contributed photo

Members of the International Relations Club won several awards at the Model United Nations Conference recently. They are pictured above with advisor Prof. Dean Bergeron holding their trophy.

Students in the club were extremely proud to have won these awards, and members of the French delegation were happy to give the best delegation to the man who runs this club, Dean Bergeron, who will be retiring this year.

Students in the club were very pleased with the results. "We won the best delegation award due to the work we delivered as a team, we were also extremely prepared for this event," said Barbara Rocha, a member of the club.

Members of the IRC are now in preparation for their next conference, the Model Arab League, in which the club will represent Iraq. This conference will be held April 1-4 in Washington, D.C.

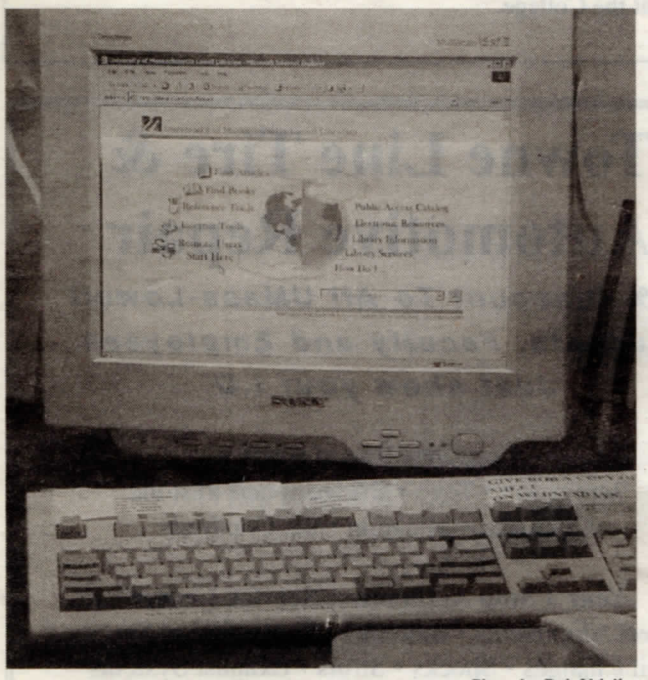

Photo by Rob Velella

The UML library web site has become easier to use at home.

UML libraries come home

by Nicole Brown
Connector Contributor

The UMass Lowell Library system has now made it easier for students living off of campus to access the library's databases. The new system took effect in the beginning of February, and is now starting to catch on.

It is easy, and much more efficient than the old way of signing into the library.

The old system used a proxy server. For those unfamiliar with the way the old system worked, it required contacting the library either in person, on the phone, or through e-mail. Students had to apply for an account with a user name and a password, which took two or three days to be processed. Once you received this information back from the library, you then had to go into your internet browser and use a proxy server. For anybody unfamiliar with computers, this could be a long and confusing process with plenty of room for error.

The goal was to fix this problem, and allow students to do library research from home.

John Callahan, a systems librarian in O'Leary Library, said the point was to have "an all library solution easy to remember." And the new system is just that. Students go to the library website, http://library.uml.edu/home, and on the first page that appears there is a "remote users start here" option. You click here, and it brings you to a sign in section where you sign in by putting a username of "first-name_lastname" and a password, which is the last four digits of your social security number.

From this point, you have access to the library's databases, which include PAC, electronic resources, reference tools, internet tools, and

See **Library**, cont'd on **page 2**.

4-Day Weather Forecast for the Lowell Area, March 5 - 9

Senior Student Meteorologist: Kristen L. Kerouac

Tuesday:
A partly sunny day. More sun in the morning than in the afternoon, when some puffy clouds will crop up. Breezy, with highs 38-43 degrees. Skies clearing and winds diminishing overnight. Lows in the lower to mid 20's.

Wednesday:
Fair weather continues with lots of sun in the morning, partial sunshine in the afternoon. Becoming breezy in the afternoon. Highs in the mid to upper 40's. Variably cloudy, chance of a brief shower after midnight, lows in the low 30's.

Thursday:
Morning cloudiness will give way to intervals of sun and clouds. Mild once again, with highs in the 50's. Overnight lows in the mid 30's with partly cloudy skies.

Friday:
Highs in the upper 40's to lower 50's with more clouds than sun. Chance of passing light rain showers later in the day and through the evening. Lows in the mid to upper 30's.

This forecast is brought to you by the students of the UMass Lowell Weather Center. For weather updates throughout the week, or to learn more about our program,visit http://storm.uml.edu. When away from a computer, hear our regularly updated forecast on our weather hotline at ext. 3999.

From the Connector Morgue
(UML History comes out of the closet)

UML Smokers Under Fire
February 22, 1994

by Steve Athanis
Connector Contributor

In light of the recent announcement by Residence Life that all traditional-style residence halls will be smoke-free for the 2002-2003 academic year, the Connector felt that re-examining the origin of the no-smoking policy at UML would be appropriate.

On Feb. 9, 1994, at Chancellor Hogan's open meeting, Sy Nguyen, a former student raised the issue of smoking on campus, specifically in the South Campus dining hall, claiming that it was time to "protect the rights of non-smokers." Chancellor Hogan agreed, and supported a no-smoking policy campus-wide. This sparked a debate among the student body, with both sides arguing the same angle, trying to prevent an infringement on their own rights. The non-smokers argued that they should have the right to an education without risking their health because, as Nguyen pointed out, three thousand non-smokers will develop lung cancer from second-hand smoke each year. The counterpoint was the smoker's assertion that a no-smoking policy campus-wide would infringe on their rights as people who are legally allowed to smoke in Massachusetts.

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February 22, 1994
UML Smokers Under Fire

Due to the strong arguments, both for banning smoking campus-wide and not changing the University's policy on smoking, Dean King wished to have the issue settled democratically. A student representative from S.G.A. recommend that the policy, which included banning smoking in all University buildings, including the residence halls, be a referendum issue on the Spring 1994 ballot that was distributed in April.

In reaction to many students' complaints about banning smoking in their residence halls, Dean King pointed out, "What you do behind [closed] doors is not our business, no matter what you may be smoking."

In Spring of 2002, all residence hall rooms will become smoke-free, in addition to all common areas of those buildings, which have been smoke-free since the ban was enacted. While the overwhelming majority of students welcome this change, the same arguments from the 1994 debate are still present, with both sides claiming that their rights are at stake.

An Evening of Poetry

by Angelica Bernaert
Connector Contributor

On Feb. 28, the ALANA Student Center celebrated the close of Black History Month with an evening of poetry. Students from UMass Lowell, as well as students representing other colleges, read poems that they had written. These poems were from the heart and many contained topics about issues in the world today. The special guest of the evening was one of the most anticipated published poets of the generation, Jessica Care Moore.

Moore is an international poetic force who has performed in London, Scotland, Berlin, Paris, and Amsterdam. Her words motivate women and men to change the world. Moore uses a blend of funk, hip-hop, soul, and rock in her spoken word. Vice-president of ALANA, Bobby Tugbiyele, commented, "Her words are honest and real." Moore is making a literary and musical impact on the spoken word and is the author of *The Words Don't Fit in My Mouth*, a poetry collection.

Moore has been sharing her work with the public for many years. "I am humbled by my experience," stated Moore. "I'm honored to have met the people that I admire and to have them know my name and recognize my work." Moore is up for some leading roles in film this summer and has a new book in the works to be published in the summer as well.

ALANA decided to bring Moore to the UMass Lowell campus after hearing her speak last fall at Trinity College. Stephan Coggs, the director of ALANA, said, "We wanted the students at UMass Lowell to have the opportunity to hear an incredible speaker." ALANA is open to all students and everyone is welcome to join and become involved in the activities they hold on campus. The next activity ALANA is hosting for students will occur on April 3, during Fear No People Week. For more information on Moore, or information on the ALANA Student Center, call ext. 4336.

Library, from on **page 1**.

many others.

Callahan also summed up the reason for changing the system by explaining how libraries are becoming bare everywhere for the simple fact that "people expect to be able to do research from home."

The new system has been in use for about a month now and has been successful for the most part. There are still cases where some students can not log in, for the simple reason their name is not in the users database just yet. Callahan went on to suggest that "you try it before you need it."

He suggests not trying to log in on Sunday night when an assignment is due Monday morning. If you find that you can't log into the system, all you need to do is contact the library, either through e-mail, by phone, or through the new live chat option, which allows you to chat directly with a librarian, and you will be added to the database.

Overall, O'Leary and Lydon Library do offer convenient hours, but with students' busy schedules, there are bound to be times where you just can't make it to the library.

Being able to access the library and do research from home is very convenient and useful, and now much easier to do thanks to the new system.

ConnectoR March 5th Edition

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Campus News Briefs
Tidbits of News from Other Colleges and Universities

Compiled by Rob Velella
Connector Editor

University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa

The Student Government at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa recently passed a resolution 47-1 to recommend the implementation of a Fall break in mid-October to the administration. It would be the equivalent of Spring Break in the Fall, but not quite as long; they are recommending a four-day weekend (i.e. canceling class on a Thursday and Friday), according to Student Government members. They would be referred to as "student study days."

Iowa State University

Three female editors of the *Iowa State Daily*, the campus newspaper at Iowa State University, allowed a local humorous paper called *Toon* to put their pictures in their paper. Next to the picture was a parody story that called the three were *Playboy* finalists and worked on obscenities, maliciousness, and tomfoolery for the *Iowa State Daily*, which was mentioned by name. The three editors were fired by the editor-in-chief of the school paper, saying that her paper's integrity was compromised by the joke.

Middlebury College

Officials at Vermont's Middlebury College accidentally mailed about 260 W-2 forms to the wrong people. The forms, which contain detailed financial information for tax purposes, were given to the wrong employees due to a "processing error." Officials learned of the error and quickly sent a letter reminding the employees to "preserve privacy" and not open the forms. Over 3,300 other W-2 forms were sent to the appropriate people without a hitch.

Smith College

Students at the small Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts put together a web page project for "research," inviting members of the student body to share their experiences with the paranormal on campus. To their surprise, the response was overwhelming. One story that comes up often is regarding the "Whispering Woman," who tends to call students in the middle of the night, whispering indecipherable words. Reports of her calls go back several years – longer than any single student's tenure at the College.

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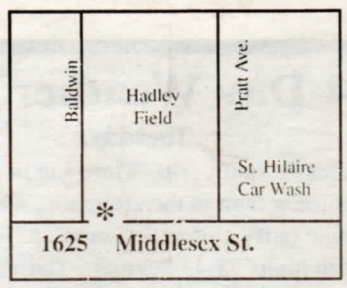

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Women's Week 2002

Lisa Bellavance
Connector Contributor

This year's celebration of International Women's Week 2002 vows to be quite an event, and Lowell is celebrating in it's own unique, and interesting fashion.

The week-long celebration will be filled with exhibits, performances, films and discussions beginning on Mar. 3 and ending on Mar. 9. The opening reception was held at the Ayers Lofts Gallery on Middle Street featuring an exhibit entitled "Struggle, Survival and Triumph."

Among many noteworthy events that will be held during the coming week, the Public Art Project 2002 looks particularly inviting. The project, entitled "Stepping Into An Uncertain World," will draw on the creative energies of individuals in and around the Lowell area. The Public Art subcommittee for Women's Week 2002 has invited the public to look at "the shoe" (women's shoes of course) and design a contribution to the exhibit.

Maxine Farkas, a fiber artist at the Brush Gallery in downtown Lowell, is asking people to contemplate the shoe and "use it to tell us something." She explained, "People can draw a shoe, photocopy a shoe, decorate a shoe, write about a shoe, or do anything else they can think of with a shoe." The only exceptions being: no smelly shoes and please, no glitter (so much for Dorothy and her little dog Toto.)

In an interview with Margot Stage of the *Middlesex Beat*, Farkas said, "The shoe idea came from a photograph taken by Susan Watts at *The New York Daily News*, following the events of Sept. 11. "It was a photo of a single woman's pump in a pile of debris, and it has been haunting ever since I saw it." A friend told Farkas that the streets were littered with women's shoes, they had kicked them off in order to flee the explosions. Farkas heads the shoe art project, which will be on display at the Boot Gallery throughout the month of March.

Lowell's celebration is centered around the official International Women's Day on Mar. 8, 2002. There are many exciting happenings, for more information and a calendar of events, log on to www.lowellwomensweek.org.

Congress may sink UMass marine biology program

by Rob Velella
Connector Editor

Six hundred thousand dollars slated for the development of a marine biology program shared among four of the five University of Massachusetts campuses may be taken back by U.S. Congress after a decree from President George W. Bush.

Grants made by Congress to higher education are nothing new — in 2001 alone, a record $1.7 billion was allotted directly to colleges across the country. Now, however, Bush is asking Congress to eliminate several of this year's grants to make up for a $1 billion shortfall in Pell Grants.

Federal Pell Grants are awarded to students attending an accredited college who come from households where the total income is less than $40,000. It is not a loan and does not have to be repaid. Maximum Pell Grant awards are just over $3,000 a year per student.

With the tight budget this year, Bush still wanted to keep the Pell Grant program at full strength in order to keep college accessible. Additionally, the administration claims there is a larger demand for Pell Grants because of the weaker economy. In a letter sent to Congress, Bush called for a more than 50 percent decrease in Congressional appropriations on education, labor, health and human services to help cover the Pell Grant program.

Other Boston-area school appropriations that are potentially on the chopping block include $1 million for Emerson College for teacher training and digital equipment for their TV studio and $750,000 for Suffolk University to be used for an institute to hold the archives of the late Representative Joseph Moakley.

Some members of Congress are fighting against Bush's suggestion, including Senator Edward Kennedy, who was a strong advocate for Emerson's grant. However, there are those who like the opportunity to better control where Congress's money is going. Republican spokesman for the House of Appropriations Committee John Scofield said many of the college appropriations were not considered "a serious proposal." He believed that many were nothing more than members of Congress pushing for more money for their own districts.

The Inter-Campus Graduate School of Marine Sciences that is to be shared amongst the five UMass campuses won final approval from the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education fairly recently. If Congress withdraws their grant, which has yet to be decided, it may affect when the program can reach full strength, though many of the courses are already in existence.

"This collaboration will ignite an unprecedented cross-campus interchange of expertise and ideas that will propel the University [of Massachusetts] to the international forefront of marine science education and research," according to Selma Botman, UMass Vice President for Academic Affairs.

MassPIRG lobbies for student loans

by Gary Cormier
Connector Contributor

It was a victory for many students on Jan. 24, when the House of Representatives passed the Johnson student loan interest rate bill (S.1762). The bill is a major step in making college more affordable for millions of Americans and students here at UMass Lowell. S.1762 will lower interest rates on Federal student loans, and estimates saving the typical student borrower $680 over the life of their loan.

MASSPIRG was very pleased with the passage of this bill. Over the last few months, MASSPIRG has worked with other student advocates to develop a compromise that would deliver low cost loans to student borrowers and maintain the stability of the guaranteed student loan program.

MASSPIRG is a state-wide, student run, non-profit organization that has 25 chapters across the state, including here at UMass Lowell. Every two years students vote to fund the chapter here, through a waivable $7 per semester fee that appears on your tuition bill. This fee allows the group to work on national issues, like student loans, but also statewide and local campaigns.

Currently, MASSPIRG is working to pass a bill through the State House that will permanently protect our state's amazing parks and forests, including the Lowell/Dracut State Forest. Developers in Massachusetts spend millions every year to buy up our public lands, which are paid for by taxpayers. This bill will make sure that all land set aside for preservation stays protected. MASSPIRG is also launching a campaign this semester to increase recycling on campus.

Be a friend by being a mentor

by Tiffany DiBurro
Connector Contributor

The Gear-Up program is looking for energetic, enthusiastic, caring college students to donate a bit of their time to make a difference in the lives of youth in Lowell. What is Gear up all about? Gear-Up or Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs reaches out to the students of the middle schools of Lowell. It is a federally funded college readiness program that pairs a child to a mentor. Being a mentor serves many purposes, such as being a good listener, a trustful friend, and most importantly a person who cares about the outcome of a child's life.

The main goal for the Gear-Up program is to increase the percentage of students who want to go further with their academic careers. This program offers a closer look at what college life is all about and the importance of it.

There is an estimated 13.6 million young people in the U.S. who want and need mentors. Mentors can make a tremendous difference by touching just one life and you can make a difference in a young person's life in Lowell. Whether you become a one on one mentor, e-mail mentor, pen pal or tutor, your relationship with a young person can change the course of their life.

If you would like to be a part of the Gear-Up program please contact the Gear-up Mentoring Office at (978)934-4667 and just remember this, a mentor is someone who has found ways to succeed in life and cares enough to pass those lessons along.

Chancellor Hogan's Open Meeting Hours

March 13
April 10
Both meetings will be held in the Trustees' Room, Cumnock Hall

Staff Hour 2:00 - 3:00
Student Hour 3:00 - 4:00
Faculty Hour 4:00 - 5:00

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Training will be held on Monday & Wednesday nights from 6:30-9:00 pm beginning March 25th, 2002 and will run for eight weeks. No experience is required.
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This Issue's Contributors

Steve Athanis
Lisa M. Bellavance
Angelica Bernaert
Nicole Brown
Gary Cormier
Tiffany DiBurro
Rebekah Giordano
Bill Harrington
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All UMass Lowell students, regardless of major, are invited to join the *Connector* staff. Interested students should contact an editor or manager listed above, or visit the *Connector* Office in Fox Suite 426.

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Opinions & Letters

Cancelling Courses

by John Lynch
UML Student

Word around North Campus is that some courses that are already in progress could be cancelled for the remainder of the semester. Sources in the Computer Science department have already spoken about the possible changes. Dr. Tom Costello, a professor in the CS Department, told students in his Exploring the Internet classes that the class could be cancelled indefinitely. Apparently there are some money issues within the department that could terminate the course, as well as other courses for the continuation of the semester.

It's unfortunate that these problems have to arise already seven weeks into the semester. What does this mean for students who are currently enrolled in these courses? Will these students get a full refund if the class is cancelled? What does this mean for graduating seniors who need this course to graduate? Can the course be taught online? Unfortunately, these, as well as several other questions, have yet to be answered.

There are currently no answers to this problem and students are left wondering about the chances of losing a course. For some students, losing a course could result in a Financial Aid loss as well as other issues. Hopefully, the University will solve this problem efficiently. Students shouldn't have to lose out on a course because of a money issue that the University could have foreseen. The courses should have been dropped at the beginning of the semester if there were any worries.

All Relative

by Robert Moreau
UML Student

The figure skating scandal involving a disputed gold between two Canadian and two Russian skaters and a bribed judge at the 2002 Olympics not only helped to reinforce what a corrupt, nationalistic joke the Olympics are (note: this is my last Olympics-related letter), but they also led us back to the stupid, unimportant debate that has somehow followed humanity for generations: are figure skating, synchronized swimming, etc. real sports. For my part, I find that there are certainly more important issues in the world, but I will take a stab at attempting to solve the "World's Stupidest Controversy."

The main problem to referring to such events as sports is that there are no concrete rules in the vein of baseball, American football, hockey, etc., and the overemphasis on human judgment. For example, one does not rate the "grace" of a home run in baseball. A home run is plainly a home run. As Christian Science Monitor writer Mark Sappenfield noted in a Feb. 14 article on the controversy, "There is no stopwatch to gauge the grace of a triple salchow."

The tastes of the judges also vary due to culture. Ben Wright, an ex-Olympic judge, told Sappenfield that "Judges differ because of their backgrounds, and their culture has an influence on their artistic side." He goes on to note "many Russians and East Europeans might favor the more balletic and technical presentations that have risen from traditions."

Some people might reject this dissection of the claim that such events are sports by saying "you try it and tell me it's not a sport." This means that because I donít believe something to be a competitive sport, I have no respect for it. This claim is a false one. I have nothing but

See Moreau, cont'd on next page.

The opinions expressed on the Opinons/Letters section do not necessarily represent the views of the Connector or its staff; rather, they reflect solely upon the author.

Alive and Well:

"Numbers, Numbers Everywhere, But Not A Drop To Drink"

by Mike Reidy
Connector Columnist

Disclaimer:
I don't claim to be a good math student. In fact, I am probably just the opposite of that. So before all the math geniuses in the world burn crosses on my lawn for this, breathe,relax

Have you ever wondered if you can prove that 2=1?

Step 1) Let's say that A=B
Step 2) Multiply both sides by A, so that A2 = AB
Step 3) Subtract B2 from both sides, so A2-B2 = AB-B2
Step 4) Factor both sides to get (A+B)(A-B)=B(A-B)
Step 5) Divide both sides by (A-B)

We are left with A+B = B

If A=1, this clearly states that 2=1 or, if you subtract B from both sides, then any number (A) would equal zero. Or, considering A=B, you could substitute B for A, and say that any number is twice itself.

There is a problem with this series of steps. If you look at step 5, we divided by (A-B), which technically is zero. Allegedly, from what everyone says, you can never divide by zero. Too bad, huh? Then we could break all sorts of rules.

A bit of girl insight

A clear connection

by Susan Kohnle
Connector Columnist

There is a distinct bond between women. In our society, most women, on a purely gender-related level, have to survive similar hardships. Consider the wage difference for both working women and men. This difference provides a forum where women can unite with the understanding that they make less than men in their same professional position.

Social and physical differences between men and women encourage a unique communication between women. They can empathize with one another concerning the issues all women have to face. For example, birth control and the fears that relate to its use creates a common ground for most women. Most women can empathize with the aggravation of and discomfort of their monthly period. Some women bond over clothing and fashion; creating a unique style can be very empowering.

Lesbians can unite through the hardships and discrimination they face every day. Women of color can unite socially by relating to their diversity and their cultural differences. Women of color are extraordinary – they exemplify a diverse ability to support one another within their gender and respective ethnic groups.

There are so many different social levels where women have the opportunity to relate and empathize with one another.

Women who are close friends can communicate on an entirely different level. These types of friends can understand each other's half-sentences and incomplete thoughts when deep in conversation. This type of close friendship forges a remarkable sisterhood between women.

With all of these different opportunities to connect and relate, where does insulting anger between women derive from? Why do women cast catty, competitive glances at one another, when any random girl you come across could easily become your best friend?

In response to a few comments I have received, this column is written with a specific stream of consciousness style, and in now way is 'A Bit of Girl Insight' meant to be a grammatically sound specimen. I use this column I applied for as a forum to discuss women's issues, and to parody some of the ways women act. I do maintain strong feminist views. However, I support all women, and do support their ability to express their opinions.

Ice skating at the Tsongas:
A good time had by all

by Kevin Kalish
UML Student

I would like to say that at a college where students are constantly complaining that there is nothing fun to do, the Society of Women's Engineers and the Society of Engineering Athletes sponsored a great event this past Monday. The event at the Tsongas Arena gathered about 200 students and faculty together for two hours of ice skating, pizza, and stress reduction. It was very welcomed at a time in the semester where we are all beginning to get swamped with tests and projects. This was just one event of Engineering Week, a week where colleges nationwide try to show that even the enginerds are capable of having a good time. Keep up the good work SWE and SEA and thank you for making me feel like I was on a "real" college campus for just a few hours.

See **Moreau**, cont'd on next page.

complete respect for all talents because I see something special in all of them. I don't think writing is a competitive sport, but it is something I enjoy doing. All art should be appreciated, but not everything should be a competition.

Having competitions degrades the art, as it turns an enjoyable show into a beauty contest. Art is something to be appreciated, and a show is something to be enjoyed, not the other way around. All these athletes in these "sports" are doing is getting their self-esteem destroyed and thinking they did something to ëloseí when in fact it was merely the opinions of a few that said someone else's performance was better. To illustrate my point, do we dare call ìStar Warsî a loser movie because it never won an Oscar?

A show is a show, so lighten up and enjoy it! And who is the best figure skater or the best diver? In the end, it's all relative.

Opinions Wanted Opinions Wanted Opinions Wanted Opinions Wanted Opinions Wanted
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the **Hawk Talk** line

The *Connector*'s anonymous survey asking members of the University for their opinions, no holds barred.

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Do you like where your money is going?

Now that budget cuts are taking place, do you feel the University is using YOUR tuition and fees money in the right places and for the right purposes?

Leave a voice mail message (keep it fairly short) and we'll print as many responses as we can in our next issue.

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Amanda Geiger never saw the drunk driver.

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.

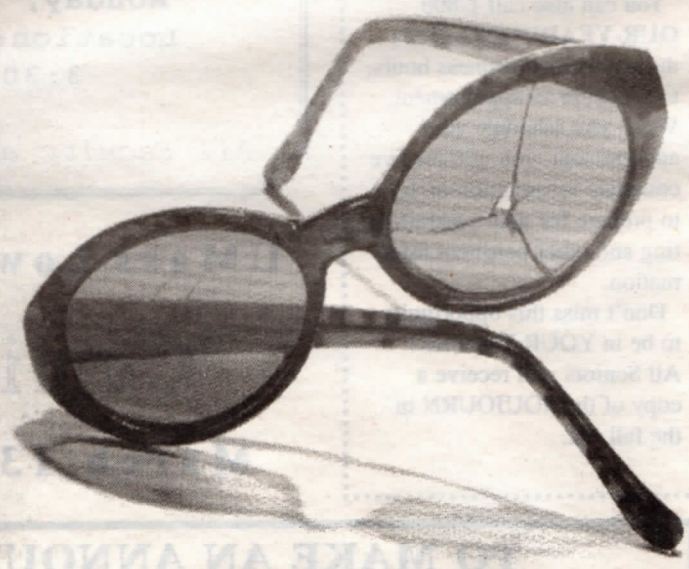

Photo by Michael Mazzeo

U.S. Department of Transportation

University Announcements

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Information and Applications available at Student Services or the SIC's!

Deadline to Apply is March 15, 2002 Bring completed applications to Student Services.

Questions? Call x2100

Interested? Come to our Info Session:
THURSDAY, MARCH 7
11:30-1:00 in the Southwick Lounge

Chancellor Hogan's Open Meeting Hours

March 13 Trustees' Room, Cumnock Hall, North Campus
April 10 Trustees' Room, Cumnock Hall, North Campus

All dates are broken down for the following times:

Staff Hour 2:00 - 3:00
Student Hour 3:00 - 4:00
Faculty Hour 4:00 - 5:00

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NOTE TO ALL CLUBS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND OFFICES:

Due to space constraints on this page, we can NEVER guarantee ad placement! We realize that all ads are very important, so we will always treat all of them equally. As such, keep sending us your announcements, and we'll do what we can!

the Hawk Talk line
x.5700

<insert your announcement here>

E-mail us at Connector@uml.edu for more info.

ATTENTION STUDENTS:

The Art History Club invites you to join!

We will meet on March 12th @ 3:30 pm in Coburn Rm. 300

We hope to see you there!

If you are unable to attend but are interested in the club and events sponsored by the Club please contact us at UMLAHClub@aol.com

SPECTRUM

SPECTRUM
(UMass Lowell's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transexual and straight alliance)
Meetings: Mondays at 3:30
For location and further information, please call ext. 5078 or e-mail spectrumuml@yahoo.com.

Attention All Clubs and Organizations:

Clubs and organizations wishing to submit a secodary budget to the SGA Finance Committee for this academic year, must do so no later than Friday March 8th in McGauvran 224 by 5 PM. *No budgets will be accepted after that date.*

If you have any questions please contact Sean Corey SGA Treasurer at: 978-934-5084 or email at uml_treasurer@hotmail.com

Senior Portraits for the 2002 SOJOURN are now being scheduled to begin on APRIL 1.

It is important that you schedule your appointment NOW by logging onto www.ouryear.com and enter school access Code **278**.

You can also call **1-800 OUR-YEAR™** (687-9327) during normal business hours, to schedule an appointment. When you schedule your appointment, you will receive complete information on how to prepare for your portrait sitting and other pertinent information.

Don't miss this opportunity to be in YOUR Yearbook! All Seniors will receive a copy of the SOUJOURN in the fall '02.

WiseGuys

Sponsoring a Lecture by
Prof. Doreen Arcus,
UMass Lowell Psychology Department

Topic: Nature/Nurture: What Infants Tell Us About Personality Development

Monday, March 11, 2002
Location: Falmouth 209
3:30 - 4:45 PM

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A&E Arts and Entertainment

Vaginas speak at UML

by Rosalind Wyman
Connector Editor

What is it? A cooch? A box? A pee? A poo? A cunt? What does it smell like? The forest? Fish? Lilacs? Or something in between? These questions and so many more were answered in UMass Lowell's rendition of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* to help prevent rape and domestic violence against women. Proceeds of the show were donated to the Alternative House in Lowell. This collection of stories from various women of all ages, races and backgrounds was told with utter honesty and love for their vaginas. It was truly the most moving piece I have seen on this campus.

Each story was very different. Some were hilarious and had the entire audience howling. One was of an older woman speaking

of her "Flood" told by Charlotte Mandell, chair of the UMass Lowell psychology department. Her "down there" had flooded to the point of being very evident to her male friend at the time back in 1953, and she hadn't talked about or thought about her "down there" since, except in her dreams.

Another story was of the "Vagina Workshop" where a woman told her story of going to a program to discover herself, told by UML student Elizabeth Smith. Eventually, the woman finds herself, on a blue mat on the floor at this workshop and finds who she truly is, a woman.

Other stories were touching and shocking. Stories of women violated during war and in their own homes were fabulously represented by UML women of all ages. Conversation of such things as group rapes, torture and "accidents" with such things as bed posts are just a few examples.

A highlight for the audience was theatre major Kristin Smith and the "Reclaiming of the Cunt" (gasp!). This orgasmic performance had the audience screaming and chanting "Cunt! Cunt!" by the end of Smith reclaiming the word as one that belongs to all women.

"It was definitely worthwhile," said fellow actress Crystal Caron. "We really felt that we were making an impact [on the audience]. I can't wait to be a part of it again next year!"

There is no way I could ever express in words how moving this performance was. From cheering to laughing to crying to moaning, it was all in this show. Not only am I more proud to be a woman, but I am more proud to be a UML student knowing I have such talented, open women all around me. Ladies, Pick up your mirrors and take a peek! Be proud of your vagina; it's a beautiful piece of you!

Photos by Rosalind Wyman
At top left and top right, UMass Lowell participants read portions of "The Vagina Monologues." Below, the entire cast. The Vagina Monologues came to UMass Lowell as part of Women's Week.

Hell breaks loose in Worcester

Gwar is a bloody and pissy good time

by Robert Harris Blatt
Connector Editor

"All the rest of the bands in the world suck except for us and Slayer." Oderus Urungus has no qualms about what he thinks of his band, Gwar. Gwar invaded the Worcester's Palladium this past Saturday night on the Blood Drive tour along with Goatwhore, Diecast, and God Forbid.

A Gwar show is one of the few places where blood still flows like wine. More than a concert, Gwar live is an experience. The men of Gwar combine musicality and a sense of humor that knows no boundaries. Rape, mass murder, Sept. 11, and dis-

embowelment are all within the limits for the band's humor. While these may seem like horrible topics to joke about, please understand who Gwar is and what they do before judging them.

Gwar wears huge plastic foam suits while performing live, claim to be aliens, and their names are names like Oderus Urungus, BalSac the Jaws of Death, Jizmac Dagusha, Flattimus Maximus, Slymenstra Hymen, and Beefcake the Mighty. The stage show of Give Blood included the dismemberment and skinning of Mike Tyson, the disembowelment of Osama Bin Laden, the beheading of President George W. Bush, along with numerous other beheadings, skinnings and the like.

The stage show is something that everyone should see at some point in their lives. The audience watched intently as Oderus battled Gor-Gor the dinosaur, gave Bloody Mary a "breast Job," boxed and sword fought with Mike Tyson, fed the Pope to a dinosaur and beat the slaves which adorned the stage.

An interesting set list included songs like "Maggots," "Baby Raper" and the new "Bloody Mary," as well as songs they haven't played in some time such as the encore's clean guitar driven "The Road Behind."

Gwar is not a band, but an experience that everyone should see at some point in their lives. Remember "All the rest of the bands in the world suck except for us and Slayer."

Photos by Nathan Walsh
Gwar, God Forbid, Goatwhore, and Diecast all rocked the Palladium Saturday night bringing their "Blood Drive 2002 tour to Worcester. Gwar's stage show was not to be missed, and this proved another strong sucessful outing for the band.

A 'Center'mental farewell in the Common

Center of the Earth says goodbye to Ryan Hagen

by Robert Blatt and Susan Kohnle
Connector Editors

On Feb. 28, singer Ryan Hagen preformed his last show with the local band Center of the Earth in the Fox Common. To start the show, the band broke into "Go" with solid energy that was sustained throughout the rest of the night. The band put a lot behind their performance to make it a very special one; it was certainly one of the most high-powered shows that UMass Lowell has seen from Center of the Earth.

Not surprisingly, a lot of people were on hand to witness Hagen's last show with the band. Many students and non-students alike showed up to support the band. The energy was most certainly contagious as the crowd showed an overwhelming excitement for the opportunity to hear Hagen's last performance of so many of their songs.

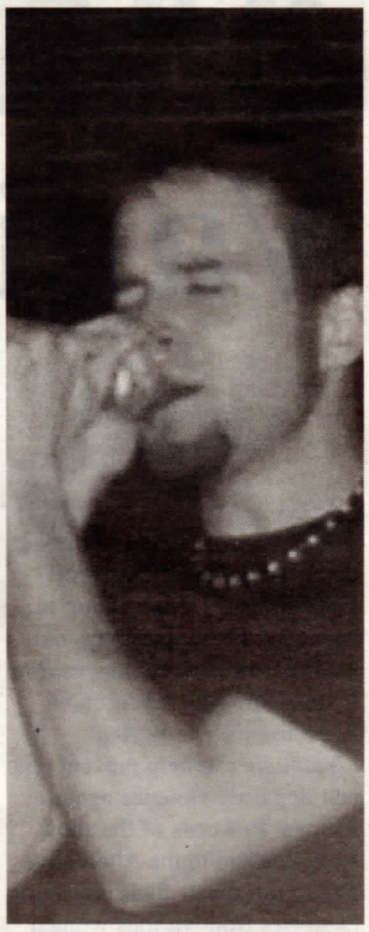
Guitarists Jon Day and Jim Reid, bassist Chris McCarthy and drummer Duct Tape Boy rocked the Fox Common for the last time with Ryan, but they intend to continue on without Hagen at the helm. The band has been together in its original line-up for two solid years now, with Reid and Day being in bands together since their early teenage years. Composed entirely of UMass students or alumni, the band has entertained the students here since Hungerpalooza and South Fest of 2000, some of their first shows as a band.

However, Thursday's show was the last opportunity to hear many of Center of the Earth's unusually arranged songs. Their first song written together, "Same Situation," was played last and afterwards, a feeling of loss and finality set in as Hagen would no longer be performing with Center of the Earth

During the show, Reid stated that while everyone should enjoy the songs they were hearing, it would be the last time they would hear most of them again live because of Hagen's departure. They added that if you wanted to hear them again, they did still have their self-titled CD for sale.

Comparing leaving the band to a tough breakup with a girlfriend, there was definitely a sense that Ryan was broken up about his decision to leave Center of the Earth. His band mates all said good-bye after the last song by sharing their appreciation for his invaluable contribution to the band.

Center of the Earth does plan on continuing, but they might not be visible on the musical map of Lowell for a little while so they have time to regroup and continue as a band. They're currently unsure as to who will replace Hagen, whether it will be someone inside or outside the band. For more info check out center.underworld.net



Photos by Kevin Gentile
Above, Ryan Hagen played his last show with Center of the Earth, pictured at left, this past Thursday with Aubergine. The band plans to move on with a new singer. The show was high energy and filled with emotions towards the end about Hagen's departure.

Simply not another war glory film

by Beth Parker
Connector Staff

Besides being an excellent actor, Mel Gibson seems to pick the right movies. He teamed up again with screenwriter and director Randall Wallace, who also directed *Braveheart* with Mel Gibson to create the most heart-wrenching movie of the year. *We Were Soldiers* is another story about Vietnam. It is also a true story about Lt. Col. Hal Moore and his United States 7th Cavalry (Custard had the 7th Cavalry), who were dropped in the middle of Ia Drang Valley on Nov. 14, 1965.

The difference between this movie and other Vietnam movies is that the whole picture is laid out before you. The audience saw what was happening at the base camp where the wives and children of these men waited for them or a yellow taxi cab carrying a Western Union telegram informing them that, "The United States…regrets to inform you…" of your husbands death. Thanks. There is nothing pretty about this movie and it makes you angry. The same question continued to pop in my head the whole time: Why? Why is the President sending these boys to a country where they are not wanted? The 7th Air Cavalry had 400 troopers who were dropped in the Landing Zone X-Ray upon the fire of 2000 Viet Cong.

I cried for two hours. I recommend seeing this movie, however; because it is not your typical Hollywood glorified version of war. After you have seen it, you feel you've seen the truth. I was born in 1972 so I do not know what it was like to see your friends and family dropping out of sight. The feeling is especially sad when you ask someone why they are fighting in the first place and they can't give you an answer.

Image courtesy of www.imdb.com
Mel Gibson, pictured above, stars in this new movie about the Vietnam War, where the reality of the war has set in and the audience is let in on the senselessness of the Vietnam War.

NEW ADDITIONS!

I'd like to welcome some new staff members to the lovely Arts and Entertainment section of the *Connector*.

Firstly, I'd like to say thank you to our new Common photographer, Kevin Gentile. When you head to the Common on a weekly basis, Kevin's the guy running all over the place with the camera. Congratulate him on a job well done if you get to see him.

Also a new edition is Beth Parker, who'll be doing weekly movie reviews. Make sure to read in each week for new faces in the *Connector*! -Rob

3 BEERS ON TAP! 17 BOTTLED BEERS!

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The power of 9-11

by J.J. Huggins
Connector Contributor

9-11 is a powerful piece of journalism.

This book is composed of interviews done with Noam Chomsky during the first month after Sept. 11. In the book, Chomsky discusses possible reasons for the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, backing up his viewpoints with history and intellect.

This book is strongly recommended, especially now, during the ongoing military campaign. *9-11* makes several important points that very few writers have touched on. Chomsky offers a load of insight and helps the reader understand the political aspects that lead to terrorism and warfare.

Chomsky is the author of several other books, which tend to be critical of the U.S. government. He is currently a professor of linguistics at MIT, where he has been teaching since 1955. *9-11* is Chomsky's latest published work. It is up-to-date, clear, and well substantiated, challenging the reader to think hard about the events of Sept. 11.

Anybody who can afford $8.95 should pick it up. For purchasing information visit the publisher's website at www.sevenstories.com.

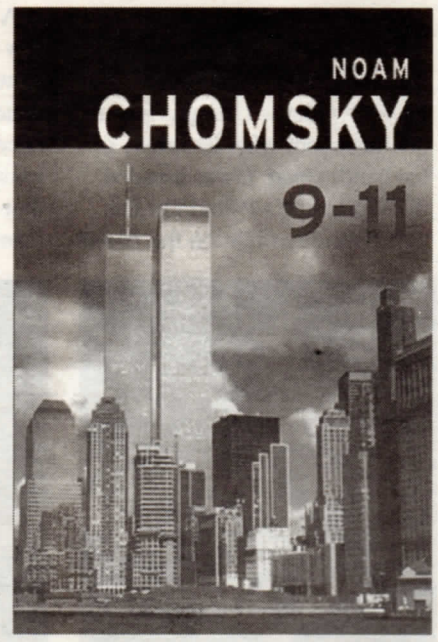

Image courtesy of www.amazon.com
Pictured above, Noam Chomsky's '9-11,' which deals with, obviously, the Sept. 11 attacks on New York.

Billboard's Top Ten Albums

according to www.billboard.com
for the week of February 26th, 2002

No.	Album Title	Artist
1	J To Tha L-O!	Jennifer Lopez
2	[Hybrid Theory]	Linkin Park
3	Drive	Alan Jackson
4	The Rebirth Of	Kirk Franklin
5	Word Of Mouf	Ludacris
6	Weathered	Creed
7	Silver Side Up	Nickelback
8	M!ssundaztood	Pink
9	Britney	Britney Spears
10	Come Clean	Puddle Of Mudd

Top Grossing Movies

according to www.entertainmenttonight.com
for the weekend of February 23rd

No.	Title	Total Grossed
1	We Were Soldiers	$20.20 million
2	40 Days And 40 Nights	$12.50 million
3	John Q	$51.07 million
4	Dragonfly	$19.40 million
5	Return To Never Land	$35.30 million
6	Queen Of The Damned	$23.83 million
7	Big Fat Liar	$38.80 million
8	A Beautiful Mind	$138.70 million
9	Crossroads	$31.17 million
10	The Lord Of The Rings	$287.38 million

You can 'Count' on predictability

by Sharyn Emery
Connector Contributor

They all lived happily ever after. Don't worry, I haven't spoiled anything for you by divulging the end to "The Count of Monte Cristo." If you haven't connected the plot dots by the end of the first half hour, then perhaps attending a university isn't the right choice for you.

This perfectly serviceable adaptation of the Alexandre Dumas novel doesn't throw any surprises. It has perfectly timed action sequences, which are carefully balanced with tender love scenes and tempered by suitable time-elapse montages. It is a story of revenge, starring Jim Caviezel (apparently Ralph Fiennes' long-lost twin) as Edmond, a man betrayed by his best friend Fernand, played by Guy Pearce. Doomed to prison for a crime he didn't commit, Edmond languishes for 15 years, during which time he befriends a fellow prisoner, played with merciful humor and panache by Richard Harris. Edmond learns to fence, to read, and finally, to escape prison, but not before his dying friend reveals the hidden treasure of Monte Cristo. Edmond finds said treasure, returns home filthy rich and proceeds to wrong everyone who wronged him first, building to a final confrontation with Fernand.

To be fair, any plot quibbles must be taken up with Dumas, who has the unfortunate advantage of being dead--but the film does not even try to make the story more convincing. When Edmond returns as the mysterious Count of Monte Cristo, neither Fernand nor his former fiancée recognize him, even though the three have known each other since infancy. True, Edmond does grow a confusing goatee and a disarming Vinny Barbarino-style hairdo, but it's too much for the average viewer to believe they would not recognize him immediately.

The locales are stunning; the film was shot in Malta and Ireland, and the scenery is as much a star of the film as either Caviezel or Pearce. More than anything else, "The Count of Monte Cristo" reminds the audience what a treasure Richard Harris is, and how even the admirable talents of Guy Pearce pale when in the shadow of true greatness.

Image courtesy of www.imdb.com
Pictured above, Guy Pearce and Dagmara Dominczyk, star in the Count of Monte Cristo, which is a pretty predictable movie set in some stunning locales.

This is the dark black line of doom. If you've gotten to this point, you are indeed, doomed. Congrats, but continue reading please.

WHERE WOULD YOU GO?
THE TIME MACHINE
BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR.
DREAMWORKS PICTURES AND WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENT A MACDONALD/PARKES PRODUCTION GUY PEARCE "THE TIME MACHINE" SAMANTHA MUMBA ORLANDO JONES
MARK ADDY AND JEREMY IRONS BASED ON THE NOVEL BY H.G. WELLS MUSIC BY KLAUS BADELT EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS LAURIE MACDONALD JORGE SARALEGUI ARNOLD LEIBOVIT PRODUCED BY WALTER F. PARKES DAVID VALDES
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Internet Connection

As you're all sitting for endless hours at your computers this week, you might wanna direct your attention over to this ConnectoR approved website:

www.engrish.com

Hilarious English translations of products in Japan. Products like the energy bar "Naturot" and "Pure Life" tupperware containers. Spend hours laughing at these great treranslations.

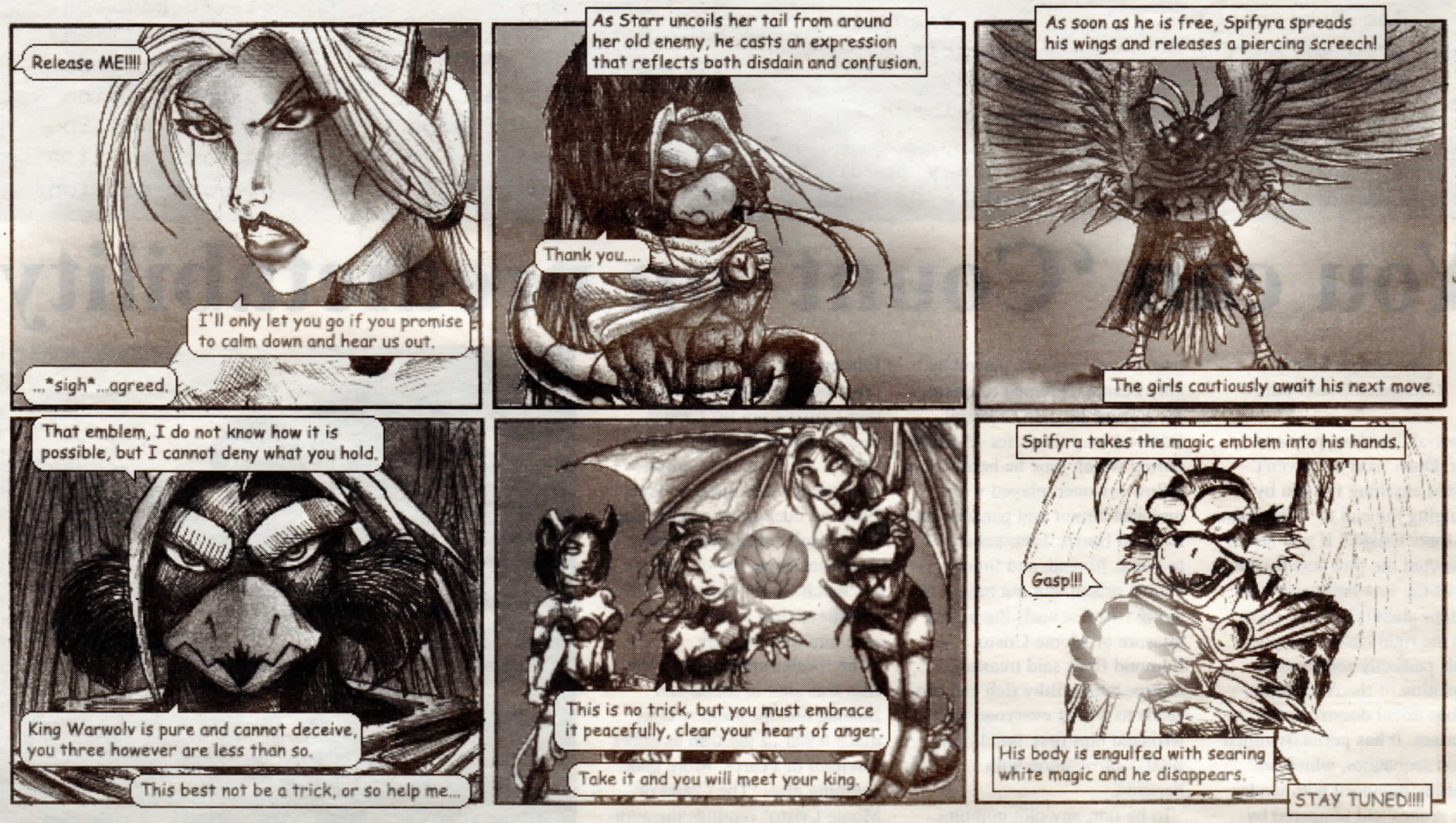
Have you got a suggestion for a great web site?
E-mail connector@uml.edu

Join Connector Staff!

Meetings weekly at 6:00 in Fox 426, call extention 5009 or E-Mail us at Connector@uml.edu

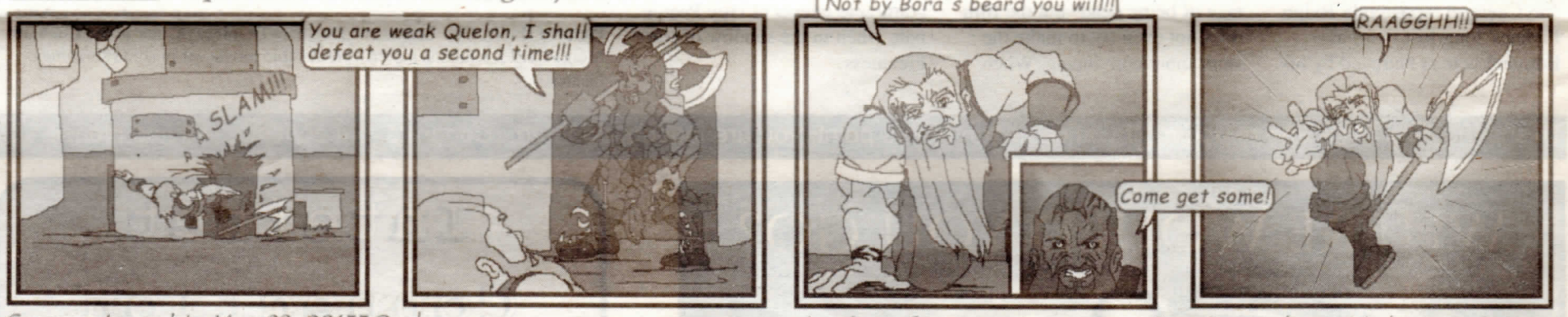
The COMIC Vortex

PROJECT: MUTANIMAL OPERATION: MISSION ACCOMPLISHED


Release ME!!!!
I'll only let you go if you promise to calm down and hear us out.
...*sigh*...agreed.
As Starr uncoils her tail from around her old enemy, he casts an expression that reflects both disdain and confusion.
Thank you....
As soon as he is free, Spifyra spreads his wings and releases a piercing screech!
The girls cautiously await his next move.
That emblem, I do not know how it is possible, but I cannot deny what you hold.
King Warwolv is pure and cannot deceive, you three however are less than so.
This best not be a trick, or so help me...
This is no trick, but you must embrace it peacefully, clear your heart of anger.
Take it and you will meet your king.
Spifyra takes the magic emblem into his hands.
Gasp!!!
His body is engulfed with searing white magic and he disappears.
STAY TUNED!!!!

A Steve "Vortex" Krikorian original

BRAZEN: Episode 17- The Mighty Axe

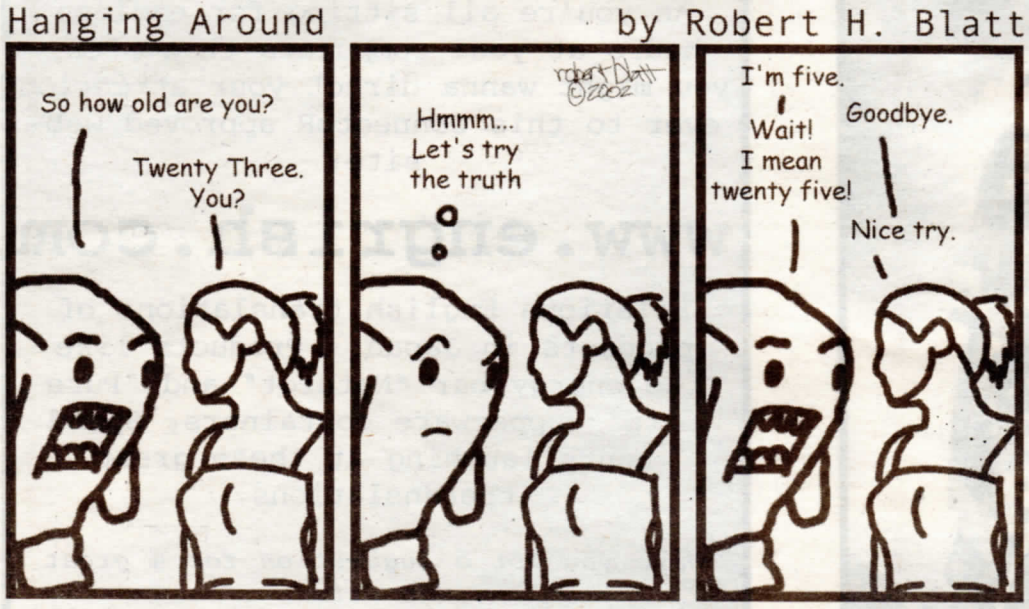


Comments send to Vega99_02155@yahoo.com

Brendan Fayle, class of "2003"

A Brendan Fayle & Mikel Lai production

Hanging Around by Robert H. Blatt



BUDDY SHMIDT by Sean Conway

buddyshmidt@yahoo.com

THE THIRD RAIL

By Bill Harrington

The COMIC Vortex 2

Just Plain Dumb

Dave Carlson

Mike's bear hunt ended when Mike found out a bunch of bears were on a human hunt.

Just Plain Dumb ©2001 Dave Carlson http://bunkscene.keenspace.com

Just Plain Dumb

Dave Carlson

Pending the whole fire situation, Mike was probably gonna be ok.

Just Plain Dumb ©2001 Dave Carlson http://bunkscene.keenspace.com

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M[assachusetts] manufacturer Ch[allenging] whe[re] re[sponsibilities] ectly [with] Oper[ations] Presi[dent] idual [illegible] aspects activities cash and d[ebt] ment, develo[pment] preparation of b[udget] plan and annual [budget], job cost control and expenses, tax and reporting compliance.

[illegible]OUNTANT
[Min]imum of business [illegible]ews and [illegible]re seeking A[ccoun]tant to [illegible]x returns pay[roll] tax p[repar]ations.

[illegible]SS SYS[TEM]MS [illegible]NALYST
[Posi]tion re[quires] [illegible]nalytical [skills] [illegible] ability to [illegible] concep[tual] identify i[ssues] [illegible]current tr[ends] processes [and] proce[dures]. [illegible]erbal, writ[ten], [illegible]ing and [illegible] skills are [illegible] for pr[oject] [illegible]ment.

[illegible]ANAGEM[ENT] SULTAN[T]
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		5 **ConnectoR Meeting** 6 PM in Fox 426 ***Power Yoga Fox Hall MPR @ 7:00 PM*** 'Free movie: Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back' Mahoney Hall / Fox MPR @8PM	**6** AA Meeting McGauvran 410 @ 12 PM **Artist Reception: Kathy Marmor** Olreay 222 @ 3:00 PM	**7** **Bible Study** Fox Hall 601 @ 7PM **Project Persevere** McGauvran@ 3PM	**8** **South Asian Student Social** Fox Hall MPR @ 7:30PM	**9** **Jazz Festival** McGaurvran 2nd Floor 8AM-7PM

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10 **Protestant Service** Fox 301, 6 PM **Catholic Center** 8 PM Mass Fox 601	**11** **Spectrum Meeting @ 3:30 PM call x- 5078** **SGA Finance Committe Mtg. 4:00 PM in McGauvran 334**	**12** **Finance Committee Meeting** McGauvran 334 @ 4:00 PM **Connector Meeting Fox 426 @6:00 PM** Mullholland Drive Mahoney Hall / Fox MPR @8PM	**13** **Health Fair** in Weed Hall 9 AM - 1:30 PM AA Meeting McGauvran 410 @ 12 PM **SGA Meeting McGauvran 410 @ 5PM**	**14** **College of Engineering Job Fair** Cumnock Aud. @ 12:30PM	**15** ***Spring Break Begins*** Residence Halls close at 6PM	**16** ***Inclement Weather?*** Call the cancellation hotline to see if classes are still being held! x-2121
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Calander edited by Susan Kohnle

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Lady Hawks reach 2nd round

UML WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

by Sarah Ralls
Connector Staff

The Lady Hawks impressed many with a win last week against Southern Connecticut in the first round of the Northeast-10 Tournament at Costello.

The women's basketball team left the Owls with a 53-52 loss, and a long bus ride home. The win was a first for the River Hawks in their second season playing in the conference.

Both teams exchanged leads 6 times in the first half, before UML was able to pull away with a 35-29 advantage by the half, with Dahima James nailing a turnaround jumper. Guards Dragana Rabota and Meghan Hamilton went 4-4 at the free throw line in the final minute. Southern Connecticut accounted for 10 turnovers in the first half.

UMass held as much as an 11-point lead as Rabota scored 8 of her 13 points and James added 6 of her team high 14 points. With 3:30 left, the Owls crept back in the game with a 3-point lead, using a full court press against Lowell. What could have been a huge win fell to pieces as the Owls missed their last 5 field goals as well as 3 of 6 shots from the line. Lowell's Meghan Hamilton converted a steal off point guard Kathleen Smith for the 53-52 lead and win.

Hamilton finished with 13 points, as the River Hawks shot 6-15 from behind the arc.

"We've been doing the same things all year," says UMass Coach Kathy O'Neil. Lowell used the same defensive and offensive strategies during this game as they have all year. O'Neil also credited James's 14 point team-high scoring, "Dahima's really stepped up these past few games."

Photo by Dawn Naves
Meghan Hamilton and the rest of the women's basketball team continue on to round 2 of NE-10 tournament.

Lowell played their last game last Tuesday against first ranked American International College in Springfield, losing 63-45. Lowell shot just 26 percent from the floor, converting just 18 of 69 field goals.

Dahima James was UMass's only double-figure scorer with 10 points and a team a high 15 rebounds. Kendra Lund added 8 points while Meghan Hamilton had 4 points and 5 assists.

Join the Lowell Club

by Morn Phaen
Connector Contributor

Encourage your parents, employers, and friends to join the Lowell Club so that they may help UMass Lowell student-athletes.

Ways of joining the club may be making monetary donations, gifts, and many more, most of which are tax deductible.

Contributions help create better athletic facilities, equipment, and scholarship opportunities for student-athletes. By now, most students are aware of the construction of the new recreation center next to Fox Hall, which nears completion. Renovations will soon be taking place at the South Campus gym in Mahoney Hall as well. Last year, the Cushing Field complext on North Campus was renovated and is in use by the field hockey and football teams.

These are just some efforts made by UMass Lowell to improve the campus.

In the past, UMass Lowell teams have competed in NCAA championships and have won various championships at this level. Sports help to create a better sense of community within the school, provide prospective students an incentive, and help to enhance the school as a university.

The Lowell Club provides a chance for alumni, parents, friends, businesses, and organizations to promote UMass Lowell Athletics. Membership is tax deductible, and goes to a good cause.

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River Hawks Race to Third at New England Championships

UML MEN'S TRACK & FIELD

Press Release
Courtesy of Athletic Media Relations

Mike Paige, a senior from Woburn, MA was a part of two championships as he led the UMass Lowell track and field team to a best-ever third place at the New England Championships Saturday at Boston University.

The meet pitted teams from all three NCAA Divisions against one another. The University of Connecticut won the team title with 180 points while Northeastern placed second with 70 points.

The River Hawks finish was the highest by a non-Division I team since 1988 and was the third-highest in the meet's history. UML defeated the University of Rhode Island, which finished fourth with 41 points, followed by Wheaton College (36), MIT (33), Boston University (31), New Hampshire (25), Boston College (24) and UMass Amherst (23). Paige led seven River Hawks who earned All-New England honors. The top three athletes in each event received All-New England status. Paige captured the 400 meter dash and set a school record with a time of 48.07 seconds, defeating Matt Adler of Boston University (48.15) and

Craig Lange of New Hampshire (48.26). Paige improved on his preliminary time of 48.77 on Friday when he placed second to Lange (48.37), and eclipsed the previous school record of 48.12 set in 1997 by Liam Govostes. Paige then led the 4X400 meter relay team to the championship in 3:15.89, defeating New Hampshire (3:16.58), Boston University (3:16.94) and Northeastern (3:17.60). Joining Paige was freshman and younger brother Jason Paige, sophomore Doug Marcoux and senior Phil Levesque.

Levesque also earned All-New England honors in the 500 meter dash, placing third in 1:04.16 – marking the second-fastest time in UML history – improving on his preliminary time of 1:04.94. Marcoux also advanced to the 400 meter dash final where he placed seventh overall in 49.76. In the preliminary, he ran a personal-best 48.99 while Jason Paige ran a personal record 49.21.

Junior Hassan Wajd achieved consecutive personal records as he placed second in the 55 meter high hurdles in 7.44 seconds. In the preliminary on Friday, Wajd tied for first with Colin Aina of Rhode Island, in 7.44 seconds. Aina moved on to win the championship in 7.37. Junior Kevin Alliette was also a second-place finisher in the 1,000 meters in 2:29.99, just behind Peter Pollard of the University of Connecticut who won the event in 2:29.36. Alliette also placed second to Pollard in the preliminary, finishing in 2:30.77 to Pollard's 2:29.75.

Senior Joe Sans earned a personal record and qualified for the NCAA championship in the mile, placing fourth in 4:11.72. Sans improved dramatically from his preliminary time of 4:15.21, when he placed ninth. Sophomore Cyrus Newbegin also set a school record in the preliminary of the 200 meter dash, placing eighth in 22.11 to better the previous record of 22.30, set by Kevin La Brecque in 1995. Newbegin placed seventh in the final in 22.35.

March 30: UML **Baseball** returns to LeLacheur Stadium starting at 1 PM

Converting to Cars

NASCAR

by Benjamin Hanson
Connector Staff

Growing up purely a baseball and football kid, I often wondered what made people admire sports like golf, bowling, and stock car racing. If sports like football and baseball were so physically demanding, how could these other activities be considered sports?

Initially, I tried to stay as far away from these activities as I could. Instead of watching those Saturday afternoon "sissy sports," I retreated to my room to play with my He-Man action figures. Instead of collecting Matchbox cars, I hoarded baseball cards.

Everything was bats and balls until that one memorable day when I was strapped to the sofa against my will and forced to witness a stock car race.

At first, I was a bit leery. Okay, I was very leery. Can you imagine forty short guys with mullet hairdos, walking around in vivid jumpsuits and answering questions about how well their cars are handling? It was like watching a commercial for a used car lot somewhere in the Deep South.

It just made no sense. Then, these fools had the nerve to get into their cars Dukes-of-Hazard-style, and the race overseers made a big deal out of telling them to start their engines. And some people follow this stuff religiously? I was not sold.

By lap 200 and something, I was dizzy and drowsy. Forty multicolored cars going around and around in circles did not capture my interest. Pit crews battling to see who could change tires the quickest did not faze me either.

The quirky announcer, who used enough non-English words and expressions to create his own language, was getting old too. And there was no spectacular crash or explosion in sight. As the legendary talk show personality Oprah Winfrey once said, "It was time to surrender myself."

So, I did. My first objective was to follow one driver and his car around the oval track. I figured that this uncomplicated task would rid me of the daze I had previously been so caught up in. Largely influenced by those around me, I chose to follow Jeff Gordon, car number 24. Painted in burning flames, his car was by far the manliest even though the driver, himself, was only five feet in height.

Next, I concentrated on the art of driving. I figured that the winning drivers usually exploited the potential of their cars. My new hero, Jeff Gordon, was an expert at this. He knew what part of the track to ride, how far to push the tachometer, when to accelerate and pass others, and when to back off and linger in the "pack."

If there was a way to beat boredom, it was by watching Gordon's calculated moves and "chess match" instincts.

The last and toughest objective was to feel some kind of emotion for these drivers and their struggle. When the race ended, one lonely guy won. Five minutes later, 39 pissed off losers walked around the track, attempting to give some metaphysical insight as to why their car did not reach the victory circle.

When you listen to these guys interview, it's like listening to yourself. They are average people with deep accents, fierce emotion, and superior driving skills. That's it.

They are not going to hit 70 homeruns or throw any touchdowns in their lifetime. Great stock car racers like Jeff Gordon, Dale Earnhardt, and Tony Stewart are going to drive the wheels off their cars because that's what they do best. When it comes to the sport of racing, I'm a believer.

Around the Boards

UML HOCKEY

by Douglas Noworyta
Connector Staff

This last game of the year ten seniors went out in style with the fans chanting thank you.

These seniors will have a chance to show their skills off one last time in the playoffs and could quite possibly walk away Hockey East champions. It must be nice to end the regular season with a win, since, as a Senior, it could be your last game.

All of the senior's parents were on hand to witness the win over Providence. This group of players got to see the many ups and downs of a long season down the stretch in Hockey East. There are many lessons to be taken from their stay at UMass Lowell.

Two of the seniors the school will be losing at the end of the playoff run are both goaltenders Jimi St. John and Cam McCormick, who have helped this team establish themselves throughout the year. In order for ther Hawks to go anywhere in the Tournament, both goalies have to be readily prepared come gametime and have to be at the top of their games.

Next years recruits will be heavily relied on to step up and fill the positions left by the talent graduating this year.

The River Hawks have found the offense that they were missing the entire second half of the season. The game versus Providence saw the Hawk's offense score six goals.

The Frenchmen played a big role in these six goals. The offense seemed to be functioning on all cylinders and with the desire needed to be successful in this division.

UMass Lowell is riding a three game winning streak into the playoffs. The team has found the means to get the puck into the net and are also playing rock solid defense. The playoffs start Thursday night March 8th and this is just what the team needed going into the tournament. The team won home ice advantage in the playoffs with a win over Northeastern last Wednesday 4 to 1.

The River Hawks have to execute all aspects of their game if they want to be successful in the playoffs. They cannot afford to look past their first round opponent, Boston College, or Northeastern because they could end up with a quick loss.

The team needs a quality performance for three periods from both the offense and defense, especially their seniors, who remember what it felt like to lose in the Fleetcenter to BC last year.

Lady Hawks Place Sixth at the New England Championships

UML WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD

Press Release
Courtesy of Athletic Media Relations

Josette Pierre-Louis, a freshman from Somerville, MA, led UMass Lowell to a pair of titles and broke a facility and a school record as the River Hawks placed sixth at the New England Track and Field Championships Saturday at Tufts University.

The meet included schools and athletes from all New England Division I, II and III colleges and universities. The top three athletes in each event earned All-New England honors.

The University of Connecticut won the team championship, compiling 183 points, followed by Northeastern (104), Wheaton College (55), Boston College (45) and the University of New Hampshire (42).

Pierre-Louis won the 400 meter dash in 57.18 to shatter the previous Gantcher Fieldhouse record of 57.42, set by UML sophomore Therese Duncan last season.

Pierre-Louis improved upon her preliminary time of 57.79 (second place) to emerge in the final. Pierre-Louis and Duncan then led the 4X200 meter relay team to second place in a school record 1:41.51, eclipsing the previous record of 1:41.68 set in 2000. Joining them was senior Jill Croft and sophomore Lauren Putnam.

Junior Heather Oldham proved herself as the best in the shot put in New England as she won the title with a throw of 46 feet, 7.5 inches. The title was the seventh this season for Oldham, who has already qualified for the NCAAs.

In addition to the 4X200, Croft shined in the long jump by placing second with a leap of 18", 11.75", second only to Viktoria Rybalko of Maine (19' 0.25"). Croft also tied for sixth in the high jump – tied for first among non-Division I athletes – with an effort of 5' 3.0".

Freshman Jackie Perrin tied for 14th overall – and third among non-Division I entries – in the pole vault with a leap of 10' 0.75".

In the indoor pentathlon, freshman Shannon Seidel took seventh (second among non-Division I entries) with 3,014 points.

Olympians from UMass Lowell

OLYMPICS

by Rebekah Giordano
Connector Contributor

This year's Olympics in Salt Lake City had three participants from UMass Lowell. Men's ice hockey members Yorick Treille of Grenobles, France, Baptise Amar of Gap, France and Laurent Menuier of Echirolles, France, traveled to Utah to take part in the 2002 Winter Olympics.

The three men, who were members of France's National ice hockey team left UMass Lowell on January 24 to prepare for the preliminaries. Team France was in the European block of pool B with Slovakia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Switzerland.

For any person being part of the Olympics is a chance of a lifetime. "It was a great experience," said Amar. "The opening ceremony was the best." Seventy-five countries took part in the opening ceremony on Friday, Feb. 8.

Along with the ceremony, the Olympic village added to the atmosphere of the games. "The whole village is set up for the athletes," said Amar. "The village was simply amazing," added Treille.

Team France first went up against Switzerland in front of 8,504 spectators. In the third period, Meunier acquired a point with an assist in France's third goal of the game. The final score ended in a tie 3-3.

"There was pressure on the game because of the rivalry between the two countries. We were happy with the tie," said Amar. Treille had four out of the 21 shots on goal for the game.

Belarus, which advanced to the medal round and scored an upset win over heavy favorite Sweden, was France's next opponent. The game concluded in a win for Belarus with he score of 3-1.

"We were disappointed with the loss," said Treille. After the loss to Belarus, France was basically out of the running to move on to the next round of the games.

The next let down came for the team when they lost to Ukraine on Feb. 13 (4-2), taking them officially out of the running to move out of the preliminaries. Trielle and Amar both came out of the game with two shots a piece.

Unfortunately, France's 31 shots on goal were not enough, as the Ukraine posted 32 shots of their own, four of which were goals. The final game for France against Slovakia was on Thursday, Feb. 14, which decided France's seed for the World Championships in April. The loss to Ukraine made it harder for the men to play.

France was playing for a win in order to finish in thirteenth place overall. Sadly, they lost and Slovakia skated away with a 7-1 win. "We were just playing to play," said Meunier. "We were playing for the pride of our country."

"The overall experience was great," said Meunier. The three men, all veterans of the National Team of France all walked away with an experience that most people only dream about. "Being able to play in the Olympics was something that I dreamed about since I was a little kid," said Treille.

Immediately following the end of their Olympic encounter, the men flew back to Boston, MA. Upon arrival the three players were picked up from the airport and driven quickly to the match against Boston University on February 15th.

Due to exhaustion only Meunier played in the game. The threesome will also represent France in the World Championships of Hockey in April.

Hawks Back to Winning Ways

UML HOCKEY

by Ryan Jansen
Connector Staff

Photo by Erin Jansen, head shots courtesy of www.goriverhawks.com, photo collage by Ryan Jansen
The River Hawks' eleven seniors have played their last regular season home game in a UMass Lowell uniform. The Hockey East quarterfinals await them on Thursday night. Let's Go Hawks!

It's been back to business as usual for the River Hawks over the past week. The Hawks rediscovered their winning ways and are on a three game winning streak.

On Sunday February 24, Jimi St. John posted his first career shutout in Lowell's 2-0 win at Merrimack. Laurent Meunier posted both goals Sunday evening, the first coming 7:00 into the first period, when Meunier poked a loose puck into an empty Merrimack net.

Josh Reed took the initial shot on goal, with Yorick Treille getting the rebound and taking Merrimack goalie Joe Exter out in the process, both Lowell players were credited with the assist.

A stellar UML defense held the Warriors to a mere 5 shots over the last 2 periods. St. John proved to be very solid in net on his 14 shots; he also came close to scoring an empty net goal with about 30 seconds left in the third.

St. John attempted to clear the puck over everyone towards the Merrimack net, and if it had not been for the 6'-6" Jeff State, who reached up and barely tipped the puck at center ice, the puck would have made it the length of the ice for a goal. Meunier's second goal was shot into an empty net with 10.3 seconds remaining in the game.

On Wednesday night UML traveled to Northeastern for the Huskies's senior night, and prevailed 4-1. After a scoreless first period, the Hawks took the lead for good early in the second period with their first of 2 power play goals.

Steve Slonina redirected a Chris Gustafson slap shot past Keni Gibson for the first goal 2:24 into the period. Darryl Green also assisted on the play. The second and final UML power play of the evening lasted 44 seconds of the 2-minute minor penalty.

At 16:58 Peter Hay scored the game-winning power-play goal off a rebound in front of the net. Ed McGrane took the initial shot and Laurent Meunier directed the rebound to Hay.

Thirty seven seconds later the Huskies answered with their only goal of the night. After a face off, Trevor Reschny settled a puck in front of St. John (29 saves) and beat him high on the goalie's stick side. The Hawks took a 2-1 lead into the second intermission.

At 5:58 of the third period Lowell continued to deflate NU's chances of a come back when Mark Concannon stole the puck from a Husky defender in the neutral zone and broke in on Gibson.

Mark put the puck between Gibson's pads for the unassisted goal, which was only his fourth tally of the year. The final tally of the night didn't come until there was only 1:43 left on the clock.

A Stephen Slonina - Mark Concannon, 2-0, breakaway resulted in Concannon poking in his second goal on the night after Slonina's initial shot. Anders Strome also assisted on the goal.

The goal sealed the win and HOME ICE for this week's Hockey East Quarterfinals. All the Hawks had to do was wait the clock out.

On Senior Night at the Tsongas Arena, UML officially made it a streak, not a FLUKE, with a win over the Providence College Friars 6-1, their third straight.

Prior to the game, ten graduating seniors were honored at their last regular season home game. Senior Ken Farrell would have made eleven, but had to depart Lowell earlier in 2002 when his season was prematurely ended due to injury. The 10 seniors honored were:

Defensemen
2 Chris Gustafson (C)
3 Josh Allison
14 RJ Tolan
Forwards
#7 Yorick Treille (C)
10 Laurent Meunier
#15 Dan Fontas
#16 Tom Rouleau
#41 Kevin Kotyluk
Goalies
#35 Jimi St. John
#37 Cam McCormick

Lowell started senior night in style with the French Connection's involvement in the first goal. Peter Hay forced a turnover behind the PC net and Laurent Meunier passed it to his French teammate Yorick Treille, who was all-alone in front of the net.

Yorick easily finished off the play, netting the goal at 3:29. The 1-0 score carried through to the first intermission. Thirty two seconds into the second period, on the power play, Yorick Treille scored his second goal on the night.

The forward took a slapshot from the point, which beat PC goalie David Cacciola. Just over two minutes later Laurent Meunier scored the third goal for the Hawks. With an extra attacker on the ice, and St. John on the bench, due to a delayed penalty on the Friars, Meunier buried a rebound from defenseman Josh Allison's shot. Darryl Green was also involved in the play and was credited with an assist.

Midway through the second period, Providence scored their lone goal on the night. After the goal it was once again the UML show.

Mark Concannon, Tom Rouleau, and Peter Hay scored goals for UML. Concannon's, a 2-1 with Green, was netted at 13:35 of the second was also assisted by Stephen Slonina.

At 19:49 of the second Rouleau, wide open in front of Cacciola, finished a centering a pass from Fontas and McGrane. The scoring was capped off with the fourth power play goal in 5 attempts, at 17:06 of the third. Peter Hay redirected a shot from Baptiste Amar and Ed McGrane for the tally.

When all was said and done, five of the ten seniors were credited with goals or assists on the night while Jimi St. John stopped 18 of 19 shots.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night (if necessary), Lowell will host Hockey East Quarterfinal series (best 2 of 3) against Northeastern at the Tsongas Arena.

This weekend will be the first time Lowell has hosted the playoffs at the Tsongas and the first time since 1996 that they have had home ice.

On a quick side note, Ed McGrane tied a Hockey East record with 7 career short-handed goals in Hockey East Games on February 2.

Come see the River Hawks play in the quest for the Hockey East title Thursday night at 7:00pm inside the TsongasArena.

Scores

Hockey
UML 6 Providence 1
Men's Basketball
UML 62 St. Anselm 65
Women's Basketball
UML 53 South. Conn. 52
UML 45 AIC 63

Upcoming River Hawk Games

Hockey East Quarterfinals
Thur. 3/8, Fri. 3/9, Sat. 3/10 (if necessary)
UML vs Northeastern Univ..
@ Tsongas Arena 7:00pm
Coming after Spring Break
Men's Tennis
Sat. 3/16 UML vs. St. Michael's 1:00pm

Baseball & Softball
Sun. 3/17 UML Baseball vs. Eckerd
@ St.Petersburg, Fl
Sun. 3/17 UML Softball vs. CW Post
@ Orlando, Fl
Check updates at www.goriverhawks.com

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